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Abscheulichste Inerhörte Execution
An wehland dem Durchleuchtig: und Großmächtigsten
Karl Stuart,

König in Groß: Britannien, Frankreich und Irland &c vorgangen in London vor der Residents Whithall / dienstag
den 30. Janua: 9. Februa: Anno 1649. Nachmittag zwischen 2. und 3. ohren.



A. How a German Became King of England B. Two English Medals C. A Medal for a Medal

. C.R.V.N. 1649

How A German Became King Of England:

A Medalllic History Of Religious Conflicts In Britain

by
Benjamin Weiss

He was born in Hanover, Germany, and could hardly speak a word of English. So how in the world could George Louis, Elector of Hanover, become king of England?¹

To answer this question we must review briefly the role religion played in selecting the British monarchs, in particular how the competition between Catholics and Protestants shaped the history of Great Britain. As has been done in the past, in publications on the use of medals as instruments for studying religious and racial bigotry (Jones, 1982; Jones, 1983; Weiss, 2008; Attwood, 2009; Attwood and Powell, 2010; Weiss, 2011; Harding, 2011; Weiss, 2014; Weiss, 2015), we will use historical and commemorative medals, issued contemporaneously with the events portrayed, as vehicles and primary sources of information to explore these religious intrigues.

THE ORIGIN OF THE CATHOLIC-PROTESTANT CONFLICT

The dispute between Catholics and Protestants for control of the monarchy started in earnest in England during the reign of Henry VIII and continued for more than a century. At the time of Henry's birth in 1491, the Protestant Reformation had not yet begun, having been launched in Germany by Martin Luther in 1517 and having later spread throughout Europe by John Calvin and other early Protestant Reformers. Although he never visited England, Calvin's ministry and writings had a powerful impact on the course of the English Reformation.

A medal by Sebastian Dadler, one of the foremost seventeenth century engravers, commemorating the centennial of John Calvin's return to Geneva in 1541, following his exile from his native country of France, is shown in figure 1. On the obverse is a bust of Calvin, the translated inscription reading, "John



Figure 1.

Centennial of John Calvin's Return to Geneva

by Sebastian Dadler, Germany, 1641, Silver struck medal, 55 mm

Ref: Wiecek 109; Goppel 77; Forrer I, 321; Clain-Stefanelli, 1974, p. 226; Maué 46; Weiss, BW363 (Image from Weiss Collection)

Calvin from Noyen in the Picardy, Pastor of the Church of Geneva." On the reverse is Fame blowing on a trumpet holding an open book. The right leg rests on a plinth. The inscription around translates as, "Teaching and Virtue Make Men Shine Even after Death."

HENRY VIII AND THE TUDOR DYNASTY

Henry, like most Christians at that time, was raised as an observant Roman Catholic and in 1509 married the Spanish princess, Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Queen Isabella I of Castile and King Ferdinand II of Aragon, also Catholics.

Catherine bore Henry a daughter, Mary Tudor, who would ordinarily be next in line to inherit the throne had she not had the fatal "flaw" of being a female at a time when there was no established precedent for a woman to accede to the English monarchy. Because Catherine could not conceive the son that Henry craved for his heir, Henry determined to divorce her. The Pope, however, forbade the divorce. Henry broke with the church in Rome, divorced Catherine and married Anne Boleyn. As a result, the Pope excommunicated Henry, prompting Parliament to pass laws proclaiming

the sovereignty of England and making Henry 'the only supreme head of the Church of England,' a momentous event that ushered in the English Reformation.

The establishment of Henry as head of the Church of England was commemorated in 1545 by the issuance of a gold medal, thought to be the first medal made in Britain (Figure 2). The legend in Latin around the edge of the obverse is divided by royal emblems and translates as, "Henry VIII, King of England, France² and Ireland, Defender of the Faith³, and under Christ, the Supreme Head on Earth of the Church of England and Ireland." On the reverse can be seen the same message in Hebrew and Greek, the other two languages of the Bible, thereby providing religious legitimacy to Henry as head of the Church of England.

Like Catherine, Henry's second wife Anne Boleyn also failed to bear him a son. Although they did have a daughter, the future Elizabeth I, Elizabeth's monarchy did not begin for more than a decade, long after Henry executed Anne on trumped-up charges of sexual indiscretions, and married Jane Seymour.

Jane Seymour gave Henry a son, Edward, who was raised a devout Protestant and



Figure 2.
Henry VIII, 'Defender of the Faith,' as Head of the Church of England
by Henry Basse, England, 1545, Gold struck medal, 54 mm
Ref: Eimer 26a; MI i, 47/44; Evelyn 88, IV
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

who inherited the crown at Henry's death. However, Edward died of tuberculosis at the age of sixteen years after willing the crown to Northumberland's daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Gray, in a failed attempt to exclude his Catholic half-sister, Mary Tudor, from the monarchy. As Edward did not marry and had no issue, in 1553 Mary Tudor became Queen of England, France and Ireland, as Mary I. Mary ascended to the throne because although male primogeniture had been the practice in England, it was not the law; i.e., women were not explicitly barred from inheriting the crown in England, as they were in France at that time.

Mary I, a devoted Catholic, married Philip II of Spain, a union that was opposed by those who objected to her marrying a Catholic. Mary determined to reestablish papal authority and restore Catholicism to England. She revived heresy laws and ordered the murder of many citizens who had converted to Protestantism, earning her the appellation 'Bloody Mary.'

A gold medal of Mary, engraved by the Milanese medallist Jacopo da Trezzo, is shown in figure 3. On the obverse one can see a half-length figure of Mary Tudor, bedecked in jewels, the legend reading "Maria I, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith." Despite her persecution of Protestants during her reign, the medal's



Figure 3.
Mary Tudor State of England
by Jacopo da Trezzo, England,
Gold cast medal, 69 mm
Ref: MI i, 72/20; Eimer 33; Scher 54
(Image courtesy of Morton and Eden)

reverse shows Mary personified as Peace, near scales implying Justice. The legend translates as, "Sight to the Blind, Peace to the Timid."

Mary Tudor was succeeded to the throne by Elizabeth I, the daughter of Henry and Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth reestablished Protestantism and in 1559 passed the Act of Supremacy, which revived the anti-papal statutes of Henry VIII and declared Elizabeth supreme Governor of the Church. Plots to murder Elizabeth and replace her with a Catholic — namely, Mary, Queen of Scots (Mary Stuart), the daughter of King James V of Scotland — resulted in Mary's eventual execution.

A pivotal event in Elizabeth's reign was England's defeat of the Spanish Armada, Catholic Spain's mighty maritime fleet, for which a medal was issued in 1588 (Figure 4). This medal was made at a time at which Elizabeth's and England's power was particularly strong — after the death of some of Elizabeth's Catholic enemies, including Mary, Queen of Scots, and following the neutralization of Catholic France and the Vatican.

The medal, shown in figure 4, depicts a bust of Elizabeth, full face, bedecked in jewels and holding a scepter and orb. The legend translates as, "No Other Circle in the Whole World More Rich." The reverse shows a tree uninjured by lightning and wind, with sea monsters below, the legend reading, "Not Even Dangers Affect it."

THE STUART DYNASTY

As Elizabeth had no offspring, the next in line to the throne was James I (James VI of Scotland), the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and her second husband, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley, making James the first of the Stuart dynasty. Both Mary and Darnley were great-grandchildren of Henry VII of England through Margaret Tudor, the older sister of Henry VIII. Although Mary and her husband were Roman Catholics, there is some controversy about James' beliefs, the consensus being that James was not only Protestant but actually opposed the Pope and wrote vehemently against Roman Catholicism.



Figure 4. Elizabeth I — Dangers Averted: Defeat of the Spanish Armada by Nicholas Hilliard, England 1588, Gold cast medal, 53 mm x 61 mm
Ref: Eimer 61Aa; MI i, 154/130
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

The Gunpowder Plot

Because of his purported anti-Catholic views, a group of enraged English Catholics, including Guy Fawkes, shown here in a contemporary engraving (Figure 5), attempted to assassinate James and his family by blowing up the House of Lords. The plot, which has become known as the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, failed. This led to renewed reprisals against Catholics and the execution of Guy Fawkes for his role in this conspiracy.

The failed Gunpowder Plot and the expulsion of the Jesuits from Holland was commemorated in Protestant Holland in 1605 by the issuance of a medal shown in figure 6. The snake on the obverse, situated among lilies and roses, represent the intrigues of the conspirators as



Figure 5. The Gunpowder Plot
Unattributed engraving of Guy Fawkes and fellow conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot, 1605
(Mary Evans Picture Library)

being from France and England (the lily, the symbol for France and the rose for England). The legend on the reverse, around the Hebrew Jehovah, "Thus, the Keeper of James Has Not Slept," is taken from Psalms, "He That Keepeth Thee Will Not Sleep," again using Scriptures to magnify its impact.



Figure 6.
The Gunpowder Plot by Unknown artist.
Netherlands, 1605, Silver struck medal, 30 mm.
Ref: Eimer 86; MI i, 196/19; van Loon II, 22;
Med. Hist, 30/7
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

The historical importance of the Gunpowder Plot is evidenced by the fact that Guy Fawkes Day was celebrated over a century later as Pope Day in colonial Boston, with parades and burned effigies of the pope, and it is still observed in some towns in Britain with parties, fireworks and exploding gunpowder.

A medal of James I, likely a naval reward medal, is shown in figure 7. On the obverse is a three-quarters bust of James, with the usual inscription: *James, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland*. The design on the reverse inscribed, *May it Stay Safe Among the Waves*, is thought to symbolize the state of the nation after the disturbances



Figure 7. James I, Naval Reward
Executed by an unknown artist, England, c.1620,
Silver cast medal, 42mm x 49 mm
Ref: Eimer 101A; MI i, 233/96.
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

caused by the Protestant Reformation. It is noteworthy that James, being king of both England and Scotland (as King James I of England and King James VI of Scotland), combined the two thrones for the first time. As such, he was head of both the Church of England and Church of Scotland.



Figure 8. Execution of Charles I
by Unknown artist, ca.1649, oil on canvas
(Image from National Galleries Scotland)

In the New World, James may be remembered as the monarch who, in 1607, established the first permanent English community in the Americas, the Jamestown settlement in the Colony of Virginia. Globally, James is perhaps best known as having sponsored the translation of the Bible for the Church of England that was to bear his name, the Authorized or King James Version of the Bible. Begun in 1604 and completed in 1611, this version of the Bible became the most widely printed book in history.

James died in 1625 and was succeeded by his son Charles. When Charles married Henrietta Maria, the Catholic sister of Louis XIII of France, it raised renewed fears of a Catholic succession to the throne among the Puritan leaders in Parliament. Charles had other disagreements with Parliament as well, such as his insistence on the 'divine right of kings' and his attempts to impose Anglican Liturgy on Scotland. These latter events triggered the Bishops' Wars, which, in turn, served as a prelude to the English Civil Wars.

The English Civil Wars

These and other clashes with Parliament precipitated the English Civil Wars led by those in Parliament (Roundheads) who sought a constitutional monarchy to replace the absolutist monarchy sought by Charles I and his followers (Cavaliers or Royalists).

Oliver Cromwell, who entered the English Civil War on the side of the Roundheads, emerged as the military and political leader of the rebels and established the



Figure 9.
Charles I Memorial
by Heinrich Reitz, Saxony, 1649,
Silver cast medal, 75 mm
Ref: Eimer 159; MI i, 350/209; Platt and Platt I, 259
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

Commonwealth of England. As a 'commoner' he was designated, not as King, but as "Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland." He was a Puritan who strongly believed in what he called 'liberty of conscience,' and accordingly had a generally tolerant view toward other Protestant groups. Cromwell prevailed over the Royalists, Charles surrendered, was tried for treason, and in 1649 was beheaded as a tyrant and public enemy to his people. His son, the future Charles II, escaped into exile.

Figure 8 shows a contemporary painting of the execution of Charles I in front of the Banquet Hall. It is thought to be based on eye-witness accounts and contemporary engravings. The inset pictures on the left show Charles as he appeared at his trial, and below, Charles walking to the scaffold. Those on the right show the moments immediately after the execution: the axeman holds up Charles's severed head while spectators hurry to dip their handkerchiefs in royal blood. The central image, with the swooning woman, hints at a parallel with the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. (Description taken from nationalgalleries.org)

More than a dozen medals were issued to memorialize the gruesome death of Charles I, some from England and some from continental Europe.



Figure 10. Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector by Thomas Simon, England, 1653, Silver struck medal, 39 mm
Ref: Eimer 188a; MI i, 409/45; van Loon II, 367
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

One such medal, executed in Saxony by Heinrich Reitz, the younger, bemoans his execution (Figure 9). The obverse shows conjoined busts of King Charles and his wife Queen Henrietta Maria. On the reverse can be seen Charles' severed head, crown and scepter lying beneath a seven-headed monster, symbolizing the intensity of the animosity of Charles' enemies who urged his beheading. The legend around reads, "Alas, what a madness this is of the rabble!," expressing the dismay of Charles' supporters for what the 'rabble' has done. (The seven-headed monster may derive from the wild beast with seven heads, which represents the worldwide political system, as introduced in Revelation 13:1).

Commonwealth Period

Many medals were issued to commemorate the rule of Oliver Cromwell during the Commonwealth Period, one of which is shown in figure 10. It was executed by Thomas Simon to commemorate Cromwell's elevation to the Protectorate. The obverse inscription around his bust reads, "Oliver, by the Grace of God, Protector of the Republics of England, Scotland and Ireland." The reverse shows a lion supporting the shield of the Protectorate, the shield bearing the Cross of St. George, Cross of St. Andrew and an Irish harp. The legend repeats a not uncommon sentiment, "Peace is Sought by War."

Another medal, issued in Holland, specifically to note the 'commoner' ancestry of Oliver Cromwell, is shown in figure 11. On the obverse Cromwell is seen being crowned between two soldiers. A cartouche, below, is inscribed "Oliver Cromwell, Protector of England, Scotland and Ireland 1658." The reverse shows the Neapolitan, Tommaso Aniello (Masaniello), being crowned between two sailors. A cartouche, below, is inscribed "Masaniello, Fisherman and King of Naples 1647."

This medal was inspired by the rise to prominence of these two commoners, something considered remarkable in the 17th century: Oliver Cromwell and Tommaso Aniello.



Figure 11.
Oliver Cromwell and Masaniello
by O. (Wouter) Müller: England/ Italy, 1658,
Silver cast medal, 70 mm
Ref: M.I. i, 432/78; Eimer 198; Jones, "Art of the Medal," 51/110;
Med. Hist. Engl. 64/10; Weiss, BW178
(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 12.
Embarkation of Charles II
and His Court at Scheveningen on
His Restoration to England
by Pieter van Abeele, Dutch/England, 1660,
Silver cast medal, 70 mm
Ref: Med III, i, 455/44; Van Loon II 462; Eimer
210; Scher (1997), 33/20; Weiss, BW410
(Image from Weiss Collection)

Tommaso Aniello, called Masaniello, was a fisherman, turned Neapolitan revolutionist, who led a revolt of the lower classes. The reverse of this medal compares Masaniello's revolt with that of Cromwell's in England, which like that of Cromwell's, was short lived. Of further interest, is the artist's rendition of the two figures, who are depicted as having a striking physical resemblance.

Cromwell's rule ended with the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 in the person of Charles II, the son of Charles I.

Restoration of the Monarchy

Following the death of Cromwell in 1658, the demand for the restoration of royalty increased. Charles II, son of Charles I, invaded London and forced Parliament to dissolve. In order to regain the monarchy, Charles issued the Declaration of Breda, in which he promised religious toleration and amnesty for his enemies. Parliament agreed to the Declaration, and in 1660 Charles left Scheveningen, a port city in Holland, and triumphantly returned to England, as is shown in the medal by the Dutch artist Pieter van Abeele (Figure 12). Like others by this medallist, this medal is made of two embossed plates, chased and united by a broad rim.

On the obverse is a bust of Charles, full facing, with his usual titles. The reverse depicts his fleet under sail; above, Fame with a trumpet and scroll inscribed, SOLI DEO GLORIA (To God Alone the Glory). Below, a shell inscribed in script, *S[yne]. M[ajesteyt]. is uit Hollant van Scheveling agfevaren naer fyn Coninryken A[nn]. 1660 Juni 2.*

(His Majesty Departed from Holland by Scheveningen to His Own Kingdom, in the year 1660, 2 June). The reverse legend, IN NOMINE MEO EXALTABITUR CORNU EIUS. PSAL[mo]. 89 (In My Name Shall His Horn Be Exalted; Psalms 89:240) uses a passage from the Bible to lend religious strength to his return to England and his restoration to the throne.

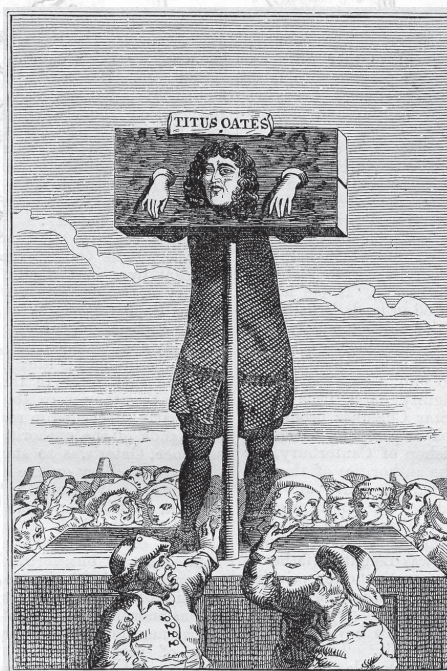


Figure 13.
Engraving of a pilloried Titus Oates
(Wikipedia)

The crowning of Charles II in 1660 as King of Great Britain, France and Ireland formally ushered in the Restoration of the Monarchy in England. His reign was marked by great societal tragedies, such as the Great Plague of London in 1665 and The Great Fire of London in 1666⁴, as well as by protracted political and religious unrest. Not the least of these was the continuation of the long-standing Catholic-Protestant hostilities.

In an effort to preserve royal power, Charles antagonized many in the largely Protestant community by accepting secret subsidies from his cousin, Louis XIV of France, the Sun King, in exchange for promoting Roman Catholicism. To this end, in 1672, Charles issued a Royal Declaration of Indulgence, which attempted to introduce religious freedom for Catholics and Protestant dissenters. The English Parliament was not so inclined and forced him to withdraw it. Perhaps to dissuade Charles' further attempts at religious toleration, accusations were raised that Catholics were scheming to kill the king; one of the more notorious of these slanders became known as the Popish Plot.

The Popish Plot

In 1678, Titus Oates, a renegade Anglican priest, fabricated the so-called Popish Plot, falsely accusing a group of Catholics, particularly Jesuits, of conspiring to massacre Protestants. He also asserted that they planned to assassinate King Charles II and replace him with his Roman Catholic brother James. As a result of his accusations, a number of Catholics were tried and executed.

Oates was ultimately accused of manufacturing this tale, and after a lengthy trial, he was found guilty of perjury. A contemporary engraving (Figure 13) shows the punishment meted out to Titus Oates for this crime.

Several forms of propaganda were issued during this period to support Oates' calumny, including the commemorative medal illustrated in figure 14. The obverse of this medal shows a janiform head, composed of a Jesuit (a Roman Catholic order of priests), wearing a biretta, and a monk, wearing a cowl, with the legend asking, "Why So Fickle." The five faces on the reverse represent members of King Charles' cabinet, who were sometimes referred to as the CABAL, an acronym for their names (Lord Clifford, Lord Ashley, Duke of Buckingham, Lord Arlington and the Duke of Lauderdale (Eimer), and a word still used today to mean 'a secret political clique or faction'. The legend reads "Birds of a Feather Flock Together." (Janiform refers to the Roman god Janus, who had two faces looking in opposite directions: to the future and the past.)

The case of Titus Oates became more perplexing and anti-Catholic fervor increased still further when the English magistrate Sir Edmundbury Godfrey was found dead. Godfrey was an Anglican charged to hear the deposition of Oates, and during the hearing appeared to question the validity of Oates' testimony. Shortly thereafter, Godfrey was found impaled on his own sword. Further examination revealed marks on his neck, suggesting he was strangled by his own cravat. It was believed the apparent suicide was concocted and the general sentiment held was that he was murdered by Catholics.

A medal issued at that period (Figure 15) shows, on the obverse, two hands strangling Godfrey with his own cravat, the legend reading, "Edmundbury Godfrey, by his Death Re-Established the State." The reverse depicts someone strangling a prostrate Godfrey, the murderer being blessed by the Pope who is holding a document labeled BVLLO (referring to a Papal Bull, a decree issued by a Pope of the Catholic Church; it is named after the lead seal (bulla) that was appended to the end



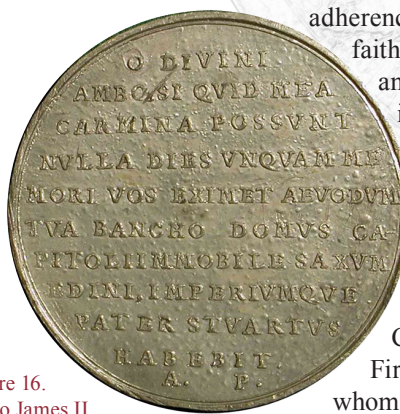
Figure 14.
Popish Plot by
George Bower, England, 1678,
Silver struck medal, 36 mm
Ref: Eimer 260a; MI i, 579/252
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 15.
Murder of Sir Edmundbury Godfrey
by George Bower, England, 1678,
Silver struck medal, 39 mm
Ref: Eimer 257a; MI i, 577/247
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 16.
Tribute to James II
and Queen Mary
by George Bower, England,
1685, Lead cast medal, 54 mm
Ref: M.I. i, 612/21; Weiss,
BW16; Unlisted in Eimer
(Image from Weiss Collection)



of the decree in order to authenticate it). The legend translates as, "Such Could Religion Do." On the edge of the medal (not visible) is an inscription that reads, "The Christian Atlas Sustains the Faith with a Broken Neck," which Medallie Illustrations interprets as: Godfrey is compared to Atlas, who required his whole vigor and strength to sustain the world, while Godfrey sustained the true faith with a broken neck.

James II and the Catholic 'Problem'

On the death of Charles II in 1685, his brother James II ascended to the monarchy. James' religious proclivities were more complicated than those of Charles. Several years before James' accession to the throne, he had married Anne Hyde, a Protestant who bore him two daughters — later these two would become monarchs in their own right as Anne, Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland, and Mary II, who shared the monarchy with her husband William III of England. When James' wife Anne Hyde died, he remarried, this time to the devoutly Catholic Mary Beatrice (Mary of Modena) (Figure 16).

The medal shows on the obverse the conjoined busts of James II and Mary of Modena. The reverse inscription repeats a poem by Archibald Pitcairn, a physician, who was a loyal adherent of the Stuarts. This medal is composed of two pieces of lead, both cast, and according to the description in Medallie Illustrations (MI i, 612/21), may be unique.

Unlike Charles, James II, while supporting religious tolerance, maintained a strong adherence to the Roman Catholic faith, but his zealous piety and his determination to impress Catholicism on his subjects was to prove his downfall. For within days of James' accession, Protestants were rallying around the illegitimate son of Charles II, James Scott, First Duke of Monmouth, whom they believed should be king. The so-called Monmouth

Rebellion was easily quashed and Monmouth was beheaded, as shown in a contemporary drawing on a playing card (Figure 17) and by the issuance of a medal (Figure 18).



Figure 17.
Execution of Duke of Monmouth
on Tower Hill Playing Card, 1685
(wikipedia)

A silver medal by the Flemish medallist Regnier Arondeaux, memorializing the deaths of Monmouth and his co-conspirator Archibald Campbell, the Earl of Argyle, is shown in figure 18.

On it one can see on the obverse James dressed as a Roman general. He is resting on a pedestal surmounted with scepters and emblazoned with a royal shield. The legend reads, "Let us Defend our Alters and Scepters." On the reverse are the severed heads of Monmouth and Argyle, resting on two blocks; their decapitated bodies are at the feet of Justice, suggesting that their beheading was an act of justice. Troops flee in the distance.

Continuing his religious campaign, James had Catholics promoted to high-status positions and appointed the 'Bloody Assizes' to execute, torture or enslave Protestant rebels, thereby ending the Monmouth Rebellion.

A critical turning point in the reign of James II came in 1687, when James issued the Declaration of Indulgence, which granted religious tolerance to Catholics and non-conformists. Several prominent bishops in the clergy objected to such religious forbearance and refused to support James, acts for which Bishop Sancroft and seven of his fellow bishops were imprisoned in the Tower of London (see Weiss, 2011). In



Figure 18.
Death of Dukes of Monmouth and Argyle
by Regnier Arondeaux, England, 1685, Silver struck medal, 61 mm
Ref: Eimer 281; MI, i, 615/27; van Loon III, 307
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

response, many turned against the King, with the Protestant Parliament aligning themselves with James' Protestant daughter Mary (Mary was the daughter of James' first wife Anne Hyde, a Protestant who raised her daughter in the same faith), and her husband William of Orange, also a Protestant.

In the same year that James imprisoned Archbishop Sancroft and the seven bishops, Mary of Modena gave birth to a son, James Francis Edward Stuart, later dubbed 'The Elder Pretender'.



Figure 19. Betrothal of William II of Orange and
Princess Royal, Mary Henrietta Stuart
Oil on canvas by Anthony van Dyck, 1641
(image from Wikipedia)

This was to complicate James' position even further, for the mainly Protestant populace in England now feared that a Catholic dynasty would be established. They therefore encouraged the overthrow of James and, in 1689, invited the Protestant couple, William III of Orange and his wife Mary (later King William III and Queen Mary II) to depose James and assume the monarchy, in what became known as the Glorious Revolution (see Weiss, 2014).

The Glorious Revolution

The hereditary justification for the accession of William and Mary to the throne of England derives from their parents. In 1641, William II of Orange, a Dutch Republic Stadtholder, married the Princess Royal, Mary Henrietta Stuart, the eldest daughter of Charles I of England. At the time of their marriage, William was 15 and Mary just 10 years of age (Figure 19).

A medal by the German engraver Johann Blum, celebrating this marriage, is presented in figure 20. The obverse shows the young couple holding hands. Cherubs, beneath rays emanating from a dove of the Holy Ghost, are holding wreaths of myrtle. A scene with a palace is in the distance. The reverse depicts William in the form of Pallas, attended by an archangel with a sword. He tramples upon Bellona, Goddess of War, and receives an olive branch from Mary in the character of Peace, accompanied by Cupid and Ceres, Goddess of Plenty.



Figure 20.

Marriage of Princess Mary to William of Orange
by Johann Blum, England, 1641, Silver struck medal, 72 mm
Ref: Eimer 137; MI i, 287/100; v. Loon II, 251; Scher 15; Weiss, BW817
(Image from Weiss Collection)

In 1650, Princess Mary gave birth to a son, William III of Orange (the future King William III of England). Depicted in figure 21 is a medal by the Dutch medallist Pieter van Abeele of Mary and her son. On the obverse is a bust of Mary on a field decorated with roses and thistles, the legend reading "Mary, by the Grace of God, Princess of Great Britain, Dowager of Orange etc." On the reverse is a three-quarters bust of William, as a child of four years of age, wearing a hat decorated with jewelry and ostrich feathers; the bust is surrounded by a broad wreath of oranges. Below, on a ribbon, is written, "William III, by the Grace of God, Prince of Orange, etc,

in the Year 1654.") This William married another Mary, the daughter of James II of England. It was this latter couple who were invited by prominent Protestant figures in England to replace Mary's father James II as sovereigns of Great Britain.

In 1688, William III of Orange, encouraged by a union of English Parliamentarians and backed by a 15,000 man army, landed at Torbay, a port on the east coast of Great Britain, along the English Channel.

William's landing at Torbay was memorialized by the issuance of several

medals, one of the more intriguing of which, from the iconographic standpoint, is shown in figure 22.

On the obverse William is depicted as a Roman Emperor, who is seen stomping on the serpent of Discord. Britannia is shown wearing a triple crown, representing the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. On the armorial shield of Britain is an orange tree (representing William of Orange) entwined with roses (Tudor rose) and thistles (the floral emblem of Scotland). In the distance are King James and Father Petre in flight, with Petre carrying the young Prince James Stuart, who



Figure 21.

Princess Mary and Prince William (III) of Orange
by Pieter van Abeele, Netherlands, 1654, Silver cast medal, 65 mm
Ref: Eimer 192; MI i, 417/55; v. Loon II 375; Scher 18; Weiss, BW813
(Image from Weiss Collection)

is playing with a windmill. The legend translates as: "God our Protector, Justice our Companion."

On the reverse, boats are landing troops near a harbor, with a fleet of ships in the distance. The legend, as translated "Against the Child of Perdition," along with that in the exergue "The Naval Expedition for the Liberty of England, 1688," express the sentiment that England is liberated from Catholicism.

The interesting and complex symbolism of this medal puts into focus the major issues of the period. It is described in *Medallic Illustrations* (MI i, 639/65) as follows: "This medal commemorated the landing of William of Orange asserting that his expedition was undertaken... probably against the Pope, who was popularly looked upon as Antichrist, called by St. Paul the Son of Perdition. The object of the invitation to William was to defend England from James's attempt to establish Popery, and its attendant, arbitrary power. James was believed to have acted by the advice of Father Petre, his confessor; and the young Prince was reported to be the son of a miller, and he is, therefore, represented with a small mill as a toy."

In order to buttress the argument that the young Prince James was not the true heir to the throne, King James's enemies developed an elaborate theory that a live newborn from another mother had been slipped into Mary of Modena's bed in a warming pan to replace her own stillborn child and was presented as the male heir to the throne, a contrived story that became

to be known as the Warming Pan Plot. The medal's representation of Prince James as the son of a miller plays into this suggestion that the son of James II and Mary of Modena was

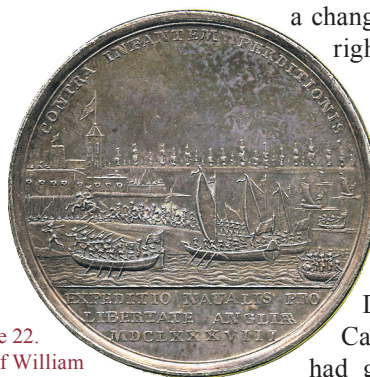


Figure 22.
Landing of William
of Orange at Torbay

by Regnier Arondeaux, England, 1688,
Silver struck medal, 49 mm

Ref: Eimer 298; MI i, 639/65; Milford Haven 1919, 77; van Loon, III 355 (Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 23.
Battle of the Boyne

By Jan Luder, The
Netherlands, 1690.
Silver struck medal, 57 mm

Ref: Eimer 327; MI I, 715/134; van loon IV, 5
(Image from Baldwin; courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 24. A Lost Cause: Flight of King James II after the
Battle of the Boyne
by Andrew Carrick Gow. Oil on canvas.

a changeling and, therefore, not the rightful heir to the throne.

The landing of William with his troops at Torbay led soon afterwards, in 1690, to his decisive victory at the Battle of the Boyne at a site near Dublin in predominantly Catholic Ireland, where James had gathered his forces. This battle was recorded by numerous medals, one of which, by the Dutch medalist Jan Luder, demonstrates how a single medal can reveal the essence of the battle (Figure 23).

As may be seen, the obverse depicts a bust of William with the legend already bearing his titles as king of Great Britain, France and Ireland. The reverse shows the triumphant equestrian figure of William about to cross the River Boyne. Fleeing in the background with their troops are figures labeled Jacob (James II) and Lausun (Antoine Nompar de Caumont, duc de Lauzun, the French commander). On the ground lay William's commander, Marshal Friedrich Schomberg (a Huguenot who was compelled to leave France in 1685 because of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV) and George Walker (an English soldier and Anglican priest), both of whom died in the battle. The legend, around, translates as, "He Appeared and Disbursed Them;" the exergue reads, "Ireland Freed, 1690."

The defeat of James' supporters in the Battle of the Boyne prompted James to flee Ireland for France (Figure 24), where he remained in exile until

his death in 1701.

Apparently, James fled to France while his Irish allies were being massacred



Figure 25.
Flight of Prince James

by Jan Smeltzing?, Dutch, 1688, Silver struck medal, 59 mm
Ref: Eimer 299; MI i, 644/73; van Loon, III. 367
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

by William III's forces, earning James the unflattering nickname 'Seamus a' chaca,' which translates as 'James the be-shitten,' or 'James the shit' in current vernacular (from thestuartkings.tumblr.com)

A medal describing the flight of James II is shown in figure 25. This piece, thought to be struck in Holland by the Dutch medallist Jan Smeltzing, serves as another example of how simple, but clever devices on a medal can tell a powerful and complicated story. The obverse shows Britannia, adorned with roses and thistles, welcoming Minerva, goddess of wisdom, who is holding the shield of William III of Orange. In the foreground is a crowned shield with a column decorated with a head of the Lion of England and surmounted by the Cap of Liberty. Ships are seen in the background, and above are beams from heaven. The Latin legend translates as, "Great Britain Delivered, Restored, and Supported by the Naval Expedition of the Dutch."

On the reverse is seen an eagle casting out a bird from her nest, with two eaglets remaining. William's fleet is in the distance. The imagery combined with the legend, INDIGNUM EIICIT (It Ejects the Unworthy One) connotes that the discarded bird is a gosling, representing the young Prince James Stuart, who, as mentioned earlier, was rumored to be a changeling; the two eaglets still in the nest symbolize the two remaining daughters of James II, the future monarchs Mary and Anne. The wreath of roses and oranges that form the border

represent England and the Netherlands, as the Tudor rose is the Heraldic emblem of England, and the oranges, the Dutch House of Orange-Nassau.

With the arrival of William and the hasty departure of James, Parliament was now free to welcome William and his wife Mary as co-sovereigns of England. As a condition for his ascendancy to the monarchy, William agreed to obey the Declaration of Rights (later called the Bill of Rights), which among other things



Figure 26.

Coronation of William and Mary at Amsterdam
by unknown medallist; England/Netherlands, 1689, Silver cast medal, 61 mm
Ref: Eimer 309A; MI i, 678/54; v. Loon III, 390; Weiss, BW811
(Image from Weiss Collection)

assured the English people he would not become a Roman Catholic.

The coronation of William and Mary was celebrated both in the Netherlands and in England by the issuance of several coronation medals. One of these, produced in the couple's home country of the Netherlands, is shown in figure 26. The silver cast medal, by an unknown

artist, shows on the obverse William and Mary seated, each holding a scepter and orb. On the reverse are three figures representing the captain, lieutenant and ensign of the City Guard of Amsterdam, with the armorial shield of the city, above. The Dutch inscription on the reverse translates as: "In Remembrance That on the Day of the Coronation the Guard Was Kept by the Company of Mr. Bernard Muikens" (Captain Muikens commanded the City Guard).

Another piece, issued in the year of their coronation by the English medallist George Bower, more explicitly refers to the couple's religion as important to their ascendancy to the monarchy (Figure 27). On the obverse are conjoined busts of William and Mary, with the inscription including the phrase, "Defenders of the Faith."

The reverse shows a statue of William III in Roman garb, holding a model of a church. He is standing on a pedestal inscribed, "More Durable than Brass." On either side of the pedestal are figures of Time and History; over him are rays from heaven, with the legend providing an echo with the refrain, "He

Comes Down from the Lofty Heaven." An edge inscription, which appears on some versions of this medal, refers more definitively to this shining couple replacing the 'Catholic tyrant' James, as it states, "While this Double Constellation Shines, Dark Tyranny Flees."

Even after the coronation, the Jacobites



Figure 27.
William and Mary, Restorers of the Anglican Church
by George Bower, England 1689, Silver cast medal, 50 mm
Ref: Eimer 307b; MI i, 658/18; van Loon III, 383
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

still fought to regain the crown for James, until in 1690 William dealt them a decisive blow with his victory at the Battle of the Boyne, an event that is considered of such importance it is still celebrated in the unionist community of Northern Ireland.

The Act of Settlement⁵

Despite their defeats, the descendants of James II continued their quest to regain the crown for a Catholic. To prevent this from happening, in 1701, as William and Mary were without heirs, Parliament passed the Act of Settlement. This act had the effect of assuring, through legislation, that only Protestants could succeed to the English throne, thereby maintaining the continuous and perpetual Protestant dominance of the monarchy. (For more on the Act of Settlement, see Endnote 5).

In that same year as the Act of Settlement was made into law, James II died in exile, the last Stuart monarch in the direct male line (Queen Anne being the last Stuart monarch). Mary of Modena fled to France with her son, James Francis Edward Stuart, and worked tirelessly to advance his claims to the English throne.

In 1702, after the deaths of Mary II and William III, the monarchy was assumed by Anne, the second daughter of James, Duke of York (later King James II), and Anne Hyde. Although her father was a Roman Catholic, Anne was reared an Anglican at the insistence of her uncle, King Charles II. Despite the fact that she was a female, Anne inherited the crown, her birthright and religion trumping her

disadvantage of being a woman.

Anne married Prince George of Denmark (Figure 28) but, although she had many pregnancies, she died without any surviving children. The long line of Stuarts ended, and the succession to the monarchy in England was thrown into disarray.

With the passage of the Act of Settlement, the long and fitful battle between the Catholics and Protestants for domination of the monarchy came to a resolution in favor of the Protestants. Although by law the new monarch must be a Protestant, after Anne's death the succession of a Protestant heir to the throne was not obvious and, as one might predict, it did not occur without considerable opposition from the Catholic community.

To summarize, here were the 'problems': Although Queen Anne was raised a Protestant, her father James II was a Catholic, and as Anne died without issue, there was no obvious successor. The next in line from the hereditary standpoint might well have been James Francis Edward Stuart (later called by his supporters James (III), the Elder Pretender), the son of James II and his second wife, Mary of Modena, also a devout Catholic. Since James Francis Edward Stuart was also a Catholic, a Protestant heir must be found, and was, but only through a rather convoluted route

and not without considerable opposition. The search for an heir to the English throne resulted in the finding that the closest blood relatives of Anne, more than 50 in all, were either female or Catholic. The search continued until finally a male Protestant relative was uncovered: distant indeed, and foreign no less, but a male Protestant nevertheless.

ENDNOTES

1. That a foreigner (defined here as someone born outside the British Isles) should become the monarch of England was not unique to this period. It had happened before and would happen again. In Britain's early history there was Canute the Great (1016-1035), born in Denmark, the son of Forkbeard of Denmark. Canute later also ruled the kingdoms of Denmark and Norway. William I (The Conqueror) (1066-1087) was born in France. A descendant of Viking raiders, William conquered England in the famous Battle of Hastings, becoming the first of the House of Normandy. Stephen of Blois (1135-1154), though the grandson of William I, was born in France. Henry II was also born in France. He married Eleanor of Aquitaine and established the House of



Figure 28.
Anne and Prince George of Denmark by John Croker,
England, 1702,
Silver struck medal, 42 mm
Struck from two obverse dies
Ref: M.I. ii, 233/14; Milford Haven, 1919,118;
Van Loon IV-346; Eimer 392; Weiss, BW329
(Image from Weiss Collection)

Plantagenet. Richard II (1377-1399) was born in Bordeaux, Duchy of Aquitaine. Edward IV (1461-1483), the first of the House of York, was born in Rouen, Normandy. He was the son of Richard, Duke of York, who was involved in the War of the Roses, a dynastic battle between supporters of the two rival branches of the House of Plantagenet, the Houses of Lancaster and York. William

III (1689- 1702), was born at the Hague, the Netherlands. He ruled England jointly with his wife as William and Mary following what has become known as the Glorious Revolution. A medallion

Gratia' (abbreviated D.G. or Dei. Gra.), Latin for 'By the Grace of God,' which is present in almost all of the medals of British monarchs, suggest that it was God who chose and anointed monarchs, and

related to the signing of the Declaration of Independence is shown below. On the obverse is a high relief, Jean-Antoine Houdon-style bust of George Washington, and on the reverse is a scene taken from



Figure Y
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
 by Charles Cushing Wright, USA, ca 1880
 Bronze (copper electrotpe) medal, 92 mm.
 Ref: Baker 53F; Jaeger and Bowers 77/66; Musante CCW-80A;
 Weiss BW383 (Image from Weiss Collection)

history of this period has been published (Weiss, 2014). Besides George I, the main subject of this discourse, his son George II (1727-1760) was also born at Hanover, Germany. Although Queen Victoria married Albert, a descendant of the German dynasty of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Albert never became monarch. In 1917, during the First World War with Germany, they changed their name to Windsor, beginning the current House of Windsor.

2. The reason the words 'King of France' are inscribed on the medals of English monarchs, including that of Henry VIII, dates back to 1340, during the reign of Edward III. Early in the 100 years' war, Edward led several campaigns in France, won a great naval battle in which he destroyed essentially all the French navy, and claimed the title of King of France. This designation, which was included in the titulature and heraldry of all English monarchs from that point on, continued until 1801.

3. The expressions 'Defender of the Faith,' as shown on this medal, and 'Dia

that they ruled in His name and with His blessing (in Christian parlance, 'By His Grace').

The concept of 'the divine right of kings' was to play an important role in the religious conflicts in Britain and in the several attempts to depose monarchs, such as the Catholic James II. During the Glorious Revolution of 1789 this doctrine virtually disappeared from English politics.

The notion of 'the divine right of kings' also conferred upon the monarch the ability to impart onto coins and medals the power to heal, leading to the production of 'Touch Pieces'.

Opposition to this principle of divine rights was clearly in evidence when Thomas Jefferson, in formulating the American Declaration of Independence, wrote that "all men are created equal." A medal by Charles Cushing Wright

John Trumbull's picture of the Committee



Figure x.
The Great Plague of London
 By unknown artist, 1665 (Image from Wikipedia)



Figure xx.
The Great Fire of London
 by Lieve Verschuier, Dutch, 1666, Oil on canvas, Museum of
 Fine Arts, Budapest

of Five, led by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson, making their report of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Congress of 1776.

4. During the reign of Charles II, an epidemic of the bubonic plague visited London (Figure x). Known in history as The Great Plague of London, it lasted from 1665 to 1666 and was responsible for the deaths of some 100,000 people, almost one-quarter of London's population.

This monumental tragedy was followed soon afterwards in 1666 by the Great Fire of London, a conflagration that all but eradicated the medieval city of London (Figure xx). The seventeenth century painting below shows the Tower of London on the right and London Bridge on the left, with St. Paul's Cathedral in the distance.

As this painting shows, among the many beautiful buildings destroyed in the fire was St Paul's Cathedral. This magnificent edifice was later to be rebuilt from designs of the highly acclaimed English architect Sir Christopher Wren. A medal of Wren's masterpiece was struck in 1849 by the Belgian medallist Jacques Wiener (Figure xxx). This medal is one of a marvelous series of 50 pieces by Wiener entitled "Medals of the Most Remarkable Edifices of Europe," representing the principal monuments of Europe at that time. As with the others of this series, the medal of St Paul's Cathedral depicts the exterior of the cathedral on the obverse and a detailed,

remarkable three-dimensional view of the interior on the reverse. The lengthy legend in the exergue summarizes its history, including the Great Fire of 1666: FOUNDED VII CENTURY. BURNT XI CENTURY. REBUILT IN STONE XII AND XIII CENTURY. AGAIN BURNT 1666. REBUILT IN ITS PRESENT STATE



Figure xxx.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL IN LONDON
 by Jacques Wiener, England, 1849,
 Bronze struck medal, 59 mm
 Ref: Van Hoydonck 49; Eidlitz 182/1075; Reinecke 34;
 Weiss BW244 (Image from Weiss Collection)

1675-1710. ARCHIT. CHRIST. WREN.

5. Act of Settlement: The Act of Settlement, passed by Parliament in 1701 (Figure xxxx), listed several conditions that must be fulfilled before one could ascend

to the throne of the Kingdom of England. The major ones were: 1) that there would be male-preference primogeniture, i.e., that males would precede females in line of succession; 2) it prevented a "papist" (Roman Catholic) from inheriting the English throne; and 3) it removed those who had married Roman Catholics from the line of succession.

As excerpted, the Act of Settlement states: "And whereas it hath [been] found by Experience that it is inconsistent with the Safety ... of this ... [Kingdom] to be governed by a Popish Prince or by any King or Queene marrying a Papist ..." That all and every person and persons that is ...or shall profess the popish religion, or shall marry a Papist, shall be excluded and be for ever [uncapable] to inherit ... the Crowne ... of this Realme ... and the said Crowne ... shall ... descend to ... Protestants as should have inherited ... the same in case the said person or persons so reconciled ... or Marrying as aforesaid ... were naturally dead."

According to these provisions, on the death of Queen Anne, the next in line to inherit the throne would be George Louis, Elector of Hanover, he being the first male, Protestant descendent through his mother Sophia, Electress of Hanover, who was the granddaughter of King James I of England through her mother, Elizabeth of Bohemia.

The Act of Settlement applied not only to England and Ireland but, as a result of the Act of Union between England and Scotland, passed in 1707, applied to Scotland as well. Indeed, following British colonization, these laws were put into effect in all other Commonwealth realms.

As stated in Wikipedia: The treaties that created the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1707 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in 1801 specifically applied these provisions to the new British throne. Article II of the Acts of Union 1707 stated that the "Succession of the Monarchy" is settled by the Act of Settlement 1701, and the ban of "Papists" from inheriting the throne was to continue according to that Act. Article 2 of Acts of Union 1801, again maintained that the succession rules in place in the new United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Ireland should be “continued limited and settled in the same manner.”

These provisions remained as settled law in Great Britain for more than 300 years, until modified by recently passed acts, the major one by the Succession to the Crown Act, which was brought into force in March, 2015. The act removed the stipulation that males would precede their elder sisters from the line of succession and no longer disqualifies a person from succeeding to the Crown if they marry a Roman Catholic.

The Succession of the Crown Act retains, however, the provision of the Act of Settlement requiring the monarch to be a Protestant. Thus, the discriminatory practices preventing atheists and all the other non-Protestant religions, including Catholics, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, etc., etc., from acceding to the British monarchy still applies.



Figure xxxx.
Facsimile of the Act of Settlement sent to Electress Sophia of Hanover
(Wikipedia)

Finally, one is tempted to compare the religious attitudes of England during this period with those of Islam today. As was so aptly recognized in an article from BBC History Magazine (Vol 12, no 8, p22, 2011;The Tudors), “.. Islam today in certain eastern communities, not only prescrib[es] ritual observance and required behavior but also provid[es] a matrix of thought and ideas. Religion in 16th-century England was similarly embedded in society and similarly formative. The axiom was ‘one nation one faith’ and hence controversy. Which faith? Tolerance was not an option. Today it would

be monstrous to burn someone because of their view. The Tudors thought otherwise; the disagreement was over who to burn.”

HOW A GERMAN BECAME KING OF ENGLAND

Part 2: HANOVERIAN DYNASTY INCITES JACOBITE REBELLIONS

Introduction to Part 2:

And so it came to pass that George Louis, Elector of Hanover, Germany, though more than 50th in line to the English throne, but being the first in line of those who were a male Protestant, became George I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

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A complete bibliography will be given at the end of Part II in the May/June issue.
BIBLIOGRAPHY



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ben has done it all: educated all the way up to Ph.D., professor at The Medical College of Pennsylvania, over 300 articles and two books published on all manner of scientific topics. In a parallel track of accomplishment in numismatics, Ben has assembled a world class collection of historical medals, weaving the same into an eloquent website, all the while publishing articles on his avocation and maintaining an outstanding website for the Medal Collectors of America. Yes, this Class “A” Achiever needs to relax from time to time, which he does with woodworking – see the lovely medal cabinet at left, which is but one fruit of his labors.



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How A German Became King Of England:

Part II: Hanoverian Dynasty Incites Jacobite Rebellions

by Benjamin Weiss

And so it came to pass that George Louis, Elector of Hanover, Germany, though more than 50th in line to the English throne, but being the first in line of those who were a male Protestant, became George I, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland.

THE HANOVERIAN DYNASTY

George I, the German King of England:

The new monarch was to be found in Germany, in the person of George Louis, shown here as Prince of Hanover in a portrait after Sir Godfrey Kneller, the leading English portrait painter of the period (Figure 1).

George's hereditary claim to this succession was somewhat circuitous: George was the eldest son of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Brunswick Lüneburg, and his wife, Sophia of the Palatinate. Sophia was the granddaughter of King James I of England through her mother, Elizabeth of Bohemia. This made George Louis the great grandson of James I through his mother Sophia and the closest male Protestant relative to James.

George Louis, Elector of Hanover, was to be the first of the Hanoverian monarchs, who in 1714 succeeded Queen Anne as King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, thus ending the Stuart line as sovereigns of England. Although a German, who could speak little English, he gained the throne as a result of the Act of Settlement which excluded Roman Catholics from ascending to the monarchy. George was chosen not only over the son of James II, James (III) Stuart (the Elder Pretender), but over many other individuals, who by inheritance might have acceded to the throne before George had they not been

either female or Catholic. (For a medallic history of these momentous religious conflicts, see Part I of this saga: Weiss, 2016, Part I, MCA Advisory, vol. 19, no. 2, pp 12-26).

The occasion of George Louis becoming the King of England, France and Ireland was commemorated by the issuance of a number of medals, engraved by celebrated medalists from both Germany and England. As some months are generally

allowed to elapse between a monarch's Proclamation, Accession and Coronation, medals exist that celebrate all these events.

One of these, a proclamation piece (not shown) by the German medalist Martin Brunner, bears the legend (translated), "George Louis, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, Duke of Brunswick and Lüneburg, Elector," thereby preserving his former German titles while at the same time proclaiming him as the new English monarch (MI ii, 419/1).

Another proclamation medal, shown in figure 2, also by a German artist, Ehrenreich Hannibal, depicts on the obverse an image of George with his usual titles of King of Great Britain, France and Ireland. The reverse shows George standing between two figures: Religion, holding the Christian standard, and Liberty, who crowns him. All are approaching Britannia who, while presenting him with the insignia of royalty, is trampling upon the beast of Discord. The reverse includes the legend, "To the Most Excellent Prince, Guardian of Religion and Liberty," leaving no doubt as to the importance of what the new king was guarding. Indeed, in *Medallic Illustrations* this

medal is described as follows: "The object of the Hanoverian succession was to preserve the Protestant Religion and the



Figure 1. *George Louis, Prince of Hanover*
After Sir Godfrey Kneller, 1680
(Image: <http://www.ngp.org.uk>)

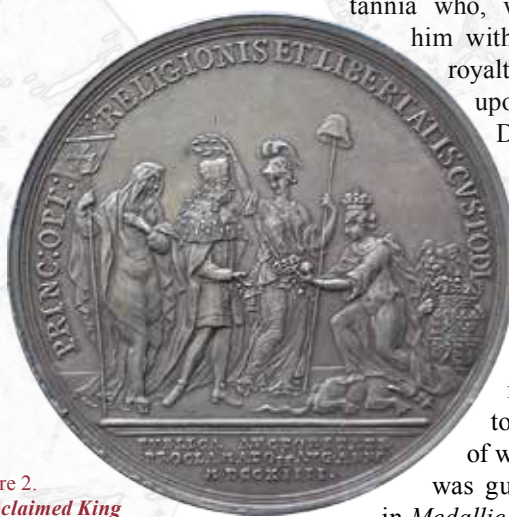


Figure 2.
George I, Proclaimed King
by Ehrenreich Hannibal, 1714, Germany,
Silver struck medal, 67 mm
Ref: Eimer 463, MI ii, 420/2
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

constitutional liberties of the kingdoms, and to suppress discord and the Papal party. The device of this medal is in accordance with these sentiments.”

Medals were also issued celebrating George’s Accession. One of these, by Georg Wilhelm Vestner, a medallist from Nuremberg, shows on the obverse a bust of George with the legend, “George Louis, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Duke of Brunswick and Luneburg, Elector of the Holy Roman Empire,” thereby proclaiming him as ruler not only of Great Britain, France and Ireland but also of certain German states and the Holy Roman Empire. The reverse shows the Sun in the middle of the constellation Leo, the legend reading “George now enters into the authority of the kingdoms of Britain, 12 Aug. 1714,” symbolizing George entering into the kingdom of the British Lion on that date (Figure 3).

That Vestner was the engraver of this medal is shown by his mark, a star below the bust. This symbol was previously the private mark of Georg Hautsch but was adopted by Vestner on Hautsch’s death.

Another medal celebrating George’s accession, also by Vestner, displays a map of Europe with the Hanoverian horse leaping from Hanover to Great Britain, with the legend suggesting that George has become sovereign of both kingdoms because Hanover alone did not suffice (MI ii, 422/5).



Figure 3.
Accession of George I
by Georg Wilhelm Vestner, England, 1714,
Silver struck medal, 44 mm
Ref: Eimer 464; MI ii, 421/4; Brockmann 812; Weiss BW818
(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 4.
Arrival of George into England
by John Croker, England 1714,
Silver struck medal, 67 mm
Ref: Eimer 466; MI ii, 422/6 ; van Loon 252; Brockmann 87
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 5.
George I, King of England, France and Ireland
by Sir Godfrey Kneller, 1714, Oil on canvas (Wikipedia)

Soon after his accession, George made a triumphant entry into London. This was commemorated by a medal engraved by the esteemed English medallist John Croker (Figure 4). The obverse legend, as usual, refers to him as Defender of the Faith. The reverse shows the King as Neptune, drawn by sea horses approaching the coast of Britain. They are attended by Tritons and Nereids (Tritons in Greek mythology are gods who, by blowing on their conch shell, calmed the waves; Nereids are sea nymphs, who helped sailors on their voyages when they faced fierce storms.) The king is represented here as Neptune because the power of the British monarchy is dependent on the dominion of the seas.

About a month after George’s arrival to London he was crowned at Westminster Abbey, sitting in the same chair where almost every other English monarch had sat since Edward II in 1308. The occasion was memorialized not only by paintings (Figure 5) but by the issuance of several medals, again engraved by both German and English medallists.

The official coronation piece by the English medallist John Croker was minted in gold, silver, and bronze; an example of the gold medal is shown in figure 6.

Another coronation medal, this by the German medallist Georg Vestner, is shown in figure 7. The obverse of this medal is similar to that of Vestner’s medal commemorating the Accession of George I shown earlier (Figure 3). Like the other, the obverse depicts a bust of George with the same legend



Figure 6.

Coronation of George I

by John Croker, England, 1714, Gold struck medal, 34 mm
Ref: Eimer 470; MI ii, 424/9; van Loon V, 255; Wollaston 11.
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 7.

Coronation of George I

by Georg Wilhelm Vestner, England, 1714,
Silver struck medal, 44 mm
Ref: Eimer 469; MI ii, 425/12; Forrer VI, 253; Fearon 42/165.2;
Bernheimer 197/10; Brockmann 145/817; Harding 52; Weiss BW569
(Image from Weiss Collection)

referring to his dominions in Great Britain and continental Europe. On the reverse is seen St. George on horseback slaying the Dragon, Victory hovering above crowning him; the legend reads, FIDEI DEFENSOR ET AEQVI. The translation of this inscription, "Defender of the Faith and of Justice," might rightly raise the questions: defender of which faith and justice for whom?

The iconography on this medal may be described as follows: St. George is the emblem of the King. The Dragon is intended to represent Popery and Arbitrary Power, both of which were overthrown when George I from the House of Brunswick was established onto the throne of England.

Many medals were issued during the 13-year reign of George I. One that may be of particular interest to medal collectors is the large cast medal of Sir Andrew Fountaine by the Italian artist Antonio Selvi (Figure 8). Fountaine was warden of the mint and a connoisseur and collector of medals.

The figure shows on the obverse a bust of Fountaine and on the reverse Pallas Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and Arts, standing among various classical ruins and works of art. She is pointing to a group of medals lying upon a tomb, obviously alluding to the fact that this eminent antiquarian and art enthusiast included medals as part of his art collections.

AFTERMATH

The ascendancy of George Louis, Elector of Hanover, to the monarchy of England sparked numerous protests and a movement to replace him with what the opponents viewed



Figure 8. **Sir Andrew Fountaine**

by Antonio Selvi, Italy, 1715, Bronze cast medal, 87 mm
Ref: Eimer 474; MI ii, 433/30; Vannell and Toderi 145
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

as the rightful, and in fact the legitimate, heir to the throne. These individuals who claimed the monarchy were termed "pretenders," and by those who opposed them, "imposters." Although there have been many such pretenders in the past, the archetypal pretendership was provided by the Stuart descendants of King James II of England.

The first of these "pretenders" was the son of James II, Prince James Stuart, Prince of Wales, who from the natural order of succession should have preceded even William, Mary and Anne, let alone George. In fact, according to the Jacobites (those who supported James II and his descendants), James

II did not cease to be king following the Glorious Revolution of 1688, and therefore his son and later his grandsons were his rightful heirs to the throne. Based on the accepted theory of indefeasible hereditary right as a base, Prince James' supporters waged a series of revolts, which became to be known as the Jacobite Rebellions.

The Jacobite Rebellions: The coronation of George I was elaborate as usual, but it was not totally peaceful — dissenters, some of whom supported Prince James Stuart, voiced their objection, even though such protests were deemed treasonable. And not surprisingly, despite the propaganda provided by the issuance of all these coronation medals (see figures 6 and 7), the assumption of George I to the monarchy did not end opposition to his rule. The Jacobites made many attempts to depose the foreign Protestant king and replace him with an English, Catholic heir, preferably a Stuart. Their main effort, which was aided by the primarily Catholic countries of France and Spain, was to promote the ascendancy of James Francis Edward Stuart, and later his heirs, to the British throne.

As you may recall, James Francis Edward Stuart (1688-1766) not only was the son of King James II and Mary of Modena but also the half-brother of the late Queen Anne. Titling himself James III of England and James VIII of Scotland, and dubbed the “Elder Pretender,” James spent a good deal of his life attempting to regain control of England from the Protestant and foreign Hanoverians back to Catholic rulers.

Encouraged by King Louis XIV, the Catholic French monarch, James Stuart staged a series of rebellions against George I of England, each of which ended in failure. Medals were issued both to support and oppose their cause, some of which are discussed below

Figure 9 shows a medal issued in 1721 in support of James (III) Stuart, the Elder Pretender. On the obverse is a bust of Prince James Stuart, with the inscription reading VNICA SALVS (Our Only Salvation), obviously implying that he alone can save England. The reverse shows the Hanoverian Horse stomping on the Lion of England, with a grieving Britannia seated, and a view of the Thames and London in the distance; Barbary pirates are at right. The legend asks the rhetorical question, QUID GRAVIUS CAPTA (What Is More Grievous than Being in Captivity).

This medal (which is sometimes called The South Sea Bubble and has also been attributed to Ermenegildo Hamerani) was intended for distribution among the Jacobites and was executed during the period when efforts were being made secretly to raise troops and supply arms to insurgents in Britain so that another effort might be made to place the Stuarts back on the throne of Britain. The omission of the Prince's name on the medal was intended to increase the interest of his cause. The Jacobites believed that the Lion and the Unicorn were symbols only of the Stuarts, and their treatment on the reverse of this medal was calculated to “fan the flame of indignation against the House of Hanover” (Sanda Lipton web site).



Figure 9.

**James (III) Stuart, the Elder Pretender:
Jacobite Appeal Against the House of Hanover**

by Ottone Hamerani, England, 1721,
Bronze struck medal, 50 mm

Ref: MI ii, 454/63; Molinari 41/124; Eimer 493; Weiss BW148
(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 10.

**Prince Charles Edward Stuart,
'Bonnie Prince Charlie', 'The Young Pretender'**
by Cosmo Alexander, Oil on canvas, 1749
(Image from artuk.org; National Trust, Sizergh Castle)

This attempt to bring back James II's son failed as did others attempting to put on the throne of England the second pretender to the throne, the eldest son of James Francis Edward Stuart, namely Charles Edward Stuart, commonly known in Britain as The Young Pretender (Charles III), and later as Bonnie Prince Charlie (Figure 10).

That the Jacobite supporters continued to yearn for the return of a Stuart monarchy is documented by the medal issued in 1745, during the reign of George II (Figure 11). Here we see on the obverse a bust of Prince Charles, the Young Pretender, the legend reading, Charles, Prince of Wales. The reverse depicts Britannia standing on the shore awaiting the Prince's approaching fleet. Britannia's hand rests on a shield on which is a globe revealing the British Isles. The legend *Amor et Spes* (Love and Hope) expresses the fervent desires of the Jacobite rebels.



Figure 11.

Expected Arrival of Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender

by Thomas Pingo or C. N. Roettier (?); 1745, England,
Bronze struck medal, 41 mm
Ref: MI ii, 600/251; Eimer 595; Farquahar 1923-24, 178,184
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 12.

Carlisle Taken: Jacobite Rebels Repulsed

by Johann Henrik Wolff, England, 1745, Silver struck medal, 37 mm
Ref: Eimer 597; MI ii, 604/258; CP 83/4; Woolf 52:1a
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

During this same period, in 1745, the Jacobites, led by Prince Charles and his army, advanced into England but suffered a major defeat when they surrendered to the Duke of Cumberland at Carlisle. This victory by the loyalist British forces was celebrated by the issuance of the medal shown in figure 12. The obverse shows a bust of the duke with the legend reading, William, Duke of Cumberland, the Favorite of the Soldiers. The reverse shows the duke as a Roman warrior attacking the many-headed Hydra of Rebellion. Carlisle is seen in the distance. The legend translates as, "For my Father and my Country", and the exergue describes the outcome of the battle, "The Rebels Driven from England and Carlisle Reduced."

All hopes of the Stuarts regaining the throne of England and re-establishing Catholic rule were totally dashed with

the devastating defeat of Charles Edward Stuart's Scottish Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. This battle was of such great importance that it was memorialized in numerous paintings and medals issued at that period.

Figure 13 shows a painting dramatizing this battle, with the English aggressively attacking the Jacobites.

A gold medal celebrating the Battle of Culloden is shown in figure 14. On the obverse is a bust of the Duke of Cumberland, the younger son of George II and the leader of George's troops. On the reverse is the duke, as Hercules, trampling on Discord (the Jacobites) and raising Britannia. The exergue is translated as, "The Rebels Driven from England and Defeated at Culloden, 16 April, 1746."



Figure 13.

The Battle of Culloden

oil on canvas, by David Morier, 1746.
(From Wikipedia)

Figure 14.

Battle of Culloden

by Richard Yeo, England, 1746, Gold struck medal, 51 mm
Ref: MI ii, 613/278; Eimer 604; Forrer VI, 702
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Following this defeat of the Jacobites, several medals were distributed by the British to further humiliate the rebels and to serve as a warning of what would happen to them if they persisted in their struggle.

One of these (Figure 15) shows on the reverse a Scottish Highlander kneeling in supplication before a crowned lion representing Hanoverian England.

Another (Figure 16), titled *Execution of the Rebels*, shows on the obverse the Duke of Cumberland on horseback and on the reverse an executioner hanging a rebel from a scaffold, while two others are kneeling waiting their turn, the legend reading "More Rebels a Coming." The medal is described in *Medallic Illustrations* as follows: "This poorly

executed medal refers to the numerous executions of rebels after the battle of Culloden, and also to the terrible punishment which it was deemed necessary to inflict on them. These executions were not confined to Scotland, as hundreds of prisoners were brought up to London and were executed at Tyburn amidst the execrations of the populace. About one in twenty of the rank and file was hanged; the others were sent to the plantations.”

Still another, issued about the same time, shows on the obverse the Duke of Cumberland holding a raised sword while on horseback, and on the reverse a small figure of Prince Charles, while attempting to seize the crown, is grabbed by the duke and run through with a sword, the legend warning to “Come Back Again” (Figure 17). In the exergue is the word “PRETENTER,” spelled incorrectly, perhaps intentionally to ridicule the ill-fated attempts of the Jacobites. Although unsigned, these latter two medals are thought to be of the Pinchbeck series (MI).

Other art media were also used to mock the Jacobites during that period. Figure 18 shows an example of this, a satirical depiction of troops mustered to defend London from the 1745 Jacobite rebellion by the renowned English painter and pictorial satirist William Hogarth.

Despite the near total suppression of the Jacobite rebellion, the battle of the medals persisted for many years. As late as 1750, medals were still being issued supporting the legitimacy of the Jacobite succession.

One such medal (Figure 19) shows a bust of Prince Charles Edward Stuart (The Younger Pretender, Bonnie Prince Charlie) on the obverse and the prince in a Highland costume approaching Scotia (Scotland) on the reverse. Behind Scotia is a pedestal decorated with a Thistle (symbol of Scotland) and surmounted by the Unicorn, representing the Stuarts. The legend “Always with arms and now with diligence,” expresses Charles’ determination to prosecute his cause by force of arms and with perseverance.

Regardless of all these attempts and promises to regain the throne, with the victory at Culloden by the supporters of the Hanoverian King George, the Stuarts never again would seriously challenge Hanoverian power in Great Britain, although there was one more who still retained the pretenders’ titulature. This was Henry Stuart, a cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church, who had been created Duke of York by his father, James Stuart, the Older Pretender. Indeed, although Henry made no serious effort to seize the throne, he was still calling himself Henry IX as late as 1788, as can be seen in the medal issued on the death of his brother, the Young Pretender, Prince Charles (III) (Figure 20).



Figure 15.
Jacobite Rebellion Defeated
by Unknown medallist, England, 1746,
Bronze struck medal, 31 mm
Ref: Eimer 609; MI ii, 616/286
(Image: Baldwin, courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 16.
Duke of Cumberland, Execution of Rebels
by Unknown medallist, England, c.1746,
Bronze struck medal, 33 mm
Ref: Woolf 55:4; MI ii, 618/289
(Image: Formerly in the Michael Finlay Collection)



Figure 17.
Failure of Prince Charles
by Unknown medallist, England, 1745,
Bronze struck medal, 34 mm
Ref: Woolf 56:3; MI ii, 618/290; Eimer 610; CP 91/24
(Image: Formerly in the Michael Finlay Collection)



Figure 18.
The March of the Guards to Finchley
by William Hogarth, Oil on canvas, c.1749
(Image from Wikipedia)



Figure 19.
Prince Charles, Legitimacy of Jacobite Succession
by Thomas Pingo, England, 1750, Silver struck medal, 51 mm
Ref: Eimer 626; MI ii, 656/360; Farquahar 191; Pingo 6
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

On the obverse we see a bust of Prince Henry in clerical cap and robes, the legend reading, Henry IX, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, Cardinal Bishop of Tusculum. The reverse shows Piety holding a book and cross, with a lion at her feet. This feeble gesture of claim to the throne of England would be the Stuarts' last gasp.

Other Hanoverian Monarchs: George Louis, brought over from Hanover, Germany, to become King George I of England, began a dynasty that lasted for almost 200 years. These include: George George II, George III, George IV, William IV and finally Queen Victoria, the last of the Hanoverian monarchs.

George II: George II (King of England from 1727-1760) was the last of the British monarchs to be born outside of England. He was king during the time in which England was engaged in several important military events, including: the final defeat of the Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 (see Figures 13, 14); Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, which ended the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-1748) — this war, called the French and Indian War in the United States, was the greatest European war since the Thirty Years' War of the seventeenth century; it was followed by a period of relative prosperity in England, for which a medal was issued celebrating the State of Great Britain (Figure 21).

This figure shows on the obverse George II in armor, wearing the Star of the Garter, with the legend reading "George II, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland." On the reverse is Mercury (Commerce), with a Cornucopia, presenting Britannia, seated on the seashore, holding the Cap of Liberty. An infant Genius is measuring a globe; in the distance, shipping; the legend HAE TIBI SUNT ARTES (These are thy arts) refers to the bountiful State of England during his reign.

George III: George William Frederick, Prince of Wales, was the eldest son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his wife Augusta. As he was born in Britain and, unlike his predecessors, was raised speaking English, he was the first in the Hanoverian line not to be viewed as a foreigner.

George III was coronated in 1760 as King of Great Britain and Ireland, shown here in a portrait of him bedecked in his sumptuous coronation robes (Figure 22).

In 1759, a year before his coronation, George William Frederick reached his majority, an event celebrated by the issuance of a medal by Thomas Pingo, an English medallist of Italian origin (Figure 23). The obverse of this medal shows a bust of George as Prince of Wales. The reverse depicts Tellus (Mother Earth) playing symbols, seated with two lions, one holding the shield of Britain, while female figures dance around an oak tree; the scroll below is inscribed "The Strength of Britain."

As recorded in *Medallic Illustrations (MI)*, the legend on the reverse of this medal TELLVS JACTABIT ALVMNO (The Earth shall boast in her offspring) "testifies to the joy of the nation on the occasion [of his majority], and expresses a hope that a young Prince would be a future strength and support to the country." *MI* goes on: "The design may have been suggested by the 67th Psalm, 'O let the nations rejoice and be glad,' and 'Then shall the earth bring forth her increase.'"

Again, as we have seen so often in the past, a beautifully executed medal, using



Figure 20.

Henry (IX) : Death of Prince Charles (III)

by Giovanni Hamerani, Italy, 1788, Silver struck medal, 53 mm

Ref: Eimer 823; BHM i, 282; Woolf 73

(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)



Figure 21.

George II, State of England

by Jacques-Antoine Dassier, England, 1750, Bronze struck medal, 55 mm

Ref: MI ii, 658/363(illustrated); Eimer 630; Weiss BW035

(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 22.

King George III in Coronation Robes

by Allan Ramsay, Oil on canvas, c.1765

(Image: Wikimedia)

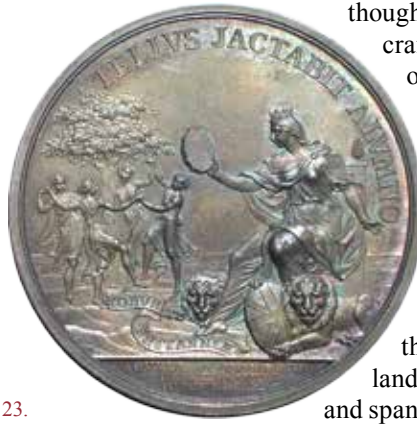


Figure 23.

Majority of George, Prince of Wales

by Thomas Pingo, England, 1759, Silver struck medal, 55 mm
Ref: Pingo 13; MI ii, 698/428; Eimer 666
(Image courtesy of Christopher Eimer)

thoughtful iconographic devices and carefully crafted Latin phrases, can make a forceful point of propaganda. The medal shows further how Scriptures are used, sometimes subliminally in this case, to strengthen the argument of how England benefits from the continued dominance of the Hanoverians.

George III is remembered in the United States largely because he was the British monarch from 1760 to 1820, a period that encompassed the continued usurpation by the Europeans of the lands occupied by the Native American inhabitants, and spanned the era in which the budding, nascent desires for American independence by American colonists led ultimately to the armed conflict between Great Britain and thirteen of its North American colonies (The American Revolutionary War, 1775–1783).



Figure 24.

George III, American Indian Peace Medal: Happy While United

by M. DeBruhl and D.C. Fueter, England 1764, Silver cast medal, 56 mm
Ref: Jamieson 12; Betts 513; Adams 2; Eimer 707
(Image courtesy of MHS)

During this early period of American history, several tokens of friendship, many in the form of Peace Medals, were issued both by the British and Americans to members of the Native American Nations to gain their support and allegiance (see Belden 1966; Prucha 1971; Adams 1999; Jamieson 2006; Pickering 2012; Weiss 2015). One such medal is shown in figure 24.

This medal, dubbed 'The Happy While United Medal,' was issued in the time of the Pontiac Revolt of 1763 (also called "Pontiac's War," "Pontiac's Rebellion," "Pontiac's Uprising"), an insurrection named after the Ottawa chief who led a war waged by Indians of the Great Lakes region against British rule after the French and Indian War (the North American theater of the worldwide Seven Years' War fought from 1754 to 1763). (See also Adams, pp.60-76 for details on the history of Pontiac's Revolt and other medals struck during this interesting period). The obverse of this medal shows an armored George III with a legend containing his usual titles. The reverse depicts an American Indian and a uniformed British officer seated beneath a tree, passing a pipe between them. Ships on a river are in the background. The legend 'Happy While United' expresses the British's desire for of their alliance.

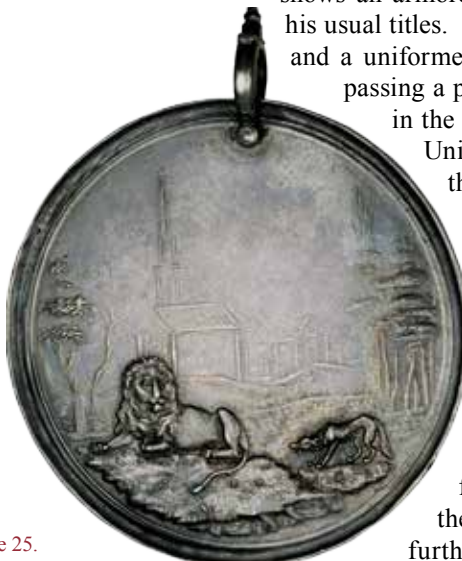


Figure 25.

Lion and Wolf Medal

by unknown artist, England, ca.1780, Silver struck medal, 61 mm
Ref: Betts 535; Adams 10.1; Fuld 6.2
(Image courtesy of Stacks)

Later, during the Revolutionary War, the French, having been defeated by the British in the Seven Years' War, were eager for revenge and so sided with the Americans. The British, in turn, allied with the Native American Peoples, using as an incentive the promise of helping them impede the further encroachment onto their land by the European colonists. This effort was furthered by giving the American Indians tokens of their friendship such as Indian Peace Medals, one of which is shown in figure 25.

As may be seen, on the obverse is a bust of George III in armor. The reverse depicts a lion (England) guarding the Anglican Church in the background. A wolf, representing the disloyal American colonists, is shown in a threatening pose.

Interestingly, a similar lion and wolf theme had been used previously in a medal commemorating the defeat of the Jacobite rebels by the Duke of Cumberland and his British loyalists (Figure 26). In this case the victorious Hanoverians are represented by the Lion, and Prince Charles and his rebellious Jacobite supporters by the Wolf, the legend reading 'Justice Triumphant.'

The other major event that occurred during the reign of George III was the defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo, shown in this painting made in the year of his defeat in 1815 (Figure 27).

George wisely left the conduct of the battle in the capable hands of the Duke of Wellington, a medal of whom was issued several years later (Figure 28). The obverse of this medal showing a bust of Wellington is complemented by the reverse depicting him in a Bellerophon helmet, a plumed ornate helmet decorated with Pegasus spearing the Chimera: thunderbolt below. The legend reads, "We Celebrate New Victories."

George IV: George Augustus Frederick (1762-1830) was coronated as George IV in 1821 on the death of his father, who in his later years had had periodic relapses into insanity. The official coronation medal by the Italian medallist Benedetto Pistrucci (Figure 29) shows on the obverse a bust of George IV with the usual legend reading, "George IV, by the Grace of God, King of the Britains, Defender of the Faith." On the reverse is a coronation scene; the king, dressed as a Roman emperor, seated with a winged figure (Peace) behind him about to crown the king. Facing him are Britannia, Scotia and Hibernia, swearing loyalty at an altar. The



Figure 27. *Battle of Waterloo*
by William Sadler II, Oil on canvas, 1815
(Image from Wikimedia)

legend translates as "Now in His Own Right in the Spirit of the Father."

William IV: William IV (1765–1837), Duke of Clarence, had a relatively short reign, being monarch of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover from 1830 until his death in 1837. He acceded to the throne because King George IV died without having a surviving legitimate issue; his claim to the monarchy was being the son of George III and younger brother to George IV. At age 64, he was the oldest person ever to assume the British throne.

During his reign, William IV initiated several important reforms, including the restriction of child labor and the abolition of slavery in most of the British Empire. He also presided over some important building projects, including the opening of the London Bridge, an event celebrated by the issuance of the first of a series of medals produced by the Corporation of the City of London to commemorate important events. (More on this outstanding group



Figure 26.
The Rebels Repulsed
by Thomas Pingo, England, 1745, Struck silver medal, 33 mm
Ref: Eimer 600; MI ii, 607/265 (Image courtesy of
Christopher Eimer)



Figure 28.
Duke of Wellington
by Benedetto Pistrucci, England, 1841, Bronze struck
medal, 61 mm; Ref: BHM ii, 60/2011; Eimer 1353; Eimer
(Wellington) 69/118; Hocking 243/91; Parks Weber 189;
Forrer IV p. 610 (illustrated); Weiss BW399
(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 29.
George IV Coronation
by Benedetto Pistrucci, England, 1821,
Bronze struck medal, 35 mm; Ref: BHM i, 264/1070; Eimer
1146a; Wollaston 12/24; Pollard II, 828/863; Weiss BW683
(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 30.

Opening of London Bridge

by Benjamin Wyon, England, 1831, Bronze struck medal, 51 mm
Issued by the Corporation of the City of London (# 1)

Ref: Eimer 1245; Welch 1; Taylor 96/102a; BHM i, 371/1544; Weiss BW675
(Image from Weiss Collection)

of medals can be found in the Endnote).

The London Bridge has a long history. The first one was built over the river Thames by the invading Roman army around 80 CE, and at its northern end a large town grew up. This was to become London. Over the years the wooden bridge had to be replaced several times. The current bridge, which replaced the 19th-century stone-arched bridge depicted on the medal (Figure 30), opened in 1973.

This medal is by Benjamin Wyon, a member of one of the most celebrated families of English medallists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It shows on the obverse a bust of William IV, and on the reverse the five-arched bridge spanning the River Thames; the exergue records the dates on which the bridge was begun and opened.

Queen Victoria: Victoria (Alexandrina Victoria), the last of the Hanoverian monarchs, was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 until her death in 1901. Until Queen Elizabeth II surpassed her in 2015, Victoria was

the longest-reigning monarch in British history. Queen Victoria's reign was of such an import that history named this the Victorian Era, a period of dramatic industrial, cultural, and scientific advancement within the United Kingdom, one marked by a great expansion of the British Empire.

Her Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by a commemorative medal (Figure 31), one of a series issued by the Corporation of the City of London. The obverse of this medal shows a bust of the queen, draped and crowned, with the legend, "The City of London Ordered this to Be Struck in Honor of Victoria, Queen and Empress." On the reverse is depicted Britannia seated upon a rock with the British Lion reposing at her feet, receiving Londinia, holding a cornucopia and shield bearing the Civic Arms. She is attended by Mercury (Commerce), and the Colonies. To the left are Industry and Knowledge (Progress). The legend reads: "From My Heart I Thank My Beloved People May God Bless Them V.R.I."

The passing of Queen Victoria, shown here a year before her death in 1901 (Figure 32), ended the celebrated Hanoverian Dynasty, as her son and successor Edward VII belonged to her husband's German Dynasty, the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha

CONCLUDING REMARKS AND HISTORICAL CONSEQUENCES

With the passage of the Act of Settlement during the reign of William and Mary, stipulating that only a Protestant could accede to the throne of England, and the final defeat of the Catholic Jacobites, any chance of Catholicism becoming reestablished in England ended.

The Act of Settlement had long-term and far reaching consequences, as it ultimately resulted in a German being



Figure 31.

Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria's Reign

by Frank Bowcher, England, 1897, Bronze struck medal, 76 mm

Ref: Eimer 1815; BHM ii, 3510; Weiss BW660

(Image from Weiss Collection)



Figure 32.
Queen Victoria, aged 80
 by Bertha Müller after Heinrich von Angeli, Oil on canvas, 1990
 (National Portrait Gallery, from Wikipedia)

enthroned as the king of England, France and Ireland, and led to a Hanoverian dynasty that was to last for almost 200 years. It affected not only who was to be the supreme ruler of the British kingdoms but changed the prospects of British citizens of many stripes. It was particularly onerous for Catholics, non-conformist Protestants and Jews, as all these groups were denied the right to vote or to sit in Parliament for over 100 years afterwards. Indeed, the monarchs were not only forbidden to be Catholic, they were not even permitted to marry a Catholic, thus ensuring in perpetuity the primacy of the Protestant faith in Britain. Some of these laws are still on the books.

One might easily conclude that discriminatory laws such as these, which disallow certain persons from holding office based on their religious preferences, may well have been in the mind of those who drafted the United States Constitution, when they wrote into Article VI of the Constitution of the United States of America the clear and unequivocal stipulation that “...no religious Test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States.” Adherence to this dictum was meant to assure that election to any public office in the United States would not be based on whether or

not persons seeking such an office had a religious affiliation or, if they were so inclined, that their election would not be based on what particular religion they professed. Whether or not they succeeded in achieving this goal is open for debate.

One might also suggest that this period of English history, in which religious conflicts were so destructive to society, was also in the minds of the framers of the United States Constitution when they enshrined into the Bill of Rights, as part of the First Amendment to the Constitution, that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...” thereby requiring that the laws of the land be neutral toward religion, neither promoting its adoption nor restricting its practice.

ENDNOTE

1. Medals Struck by The Corporation of The City of London: This group of medals, commonly called The City of London Medals, constitutes a series struck by the Corporation of the City of London to celebrate the accomplishment of notable public works, or to commemorate events of national and civic importance. The standard reference book, published in London in 1894, is *Numismata Londinensia*, which includes those medals issued from 1831 to 1893. In this book, the medals are photographed and the events prompting their issue are described in great detail by Charles Welch. Subsequent to the publication of *Numismata Londinensia*, several other medals have been issued by the Corporation of the City of London. Those medals produced from 1831 to 1973 are described in *Coins and Medals*, November 1977, where their mintage figures are provided.

Most of the medals in this series were struck in numbers between 350 and 450; a notable exception is the lead, glass-enclosed piece commemorating the Removal of Temple Bar from the City of London, which is extremely rare.

In general, the City of London Medals are of particularly high quality as they were executed by some of the finest medallists of the period, including several members of the Wyon family, the sculptor George C. Adams, the Belgium medallist Charles Wiener, and the fine Austrian medallist Anton Scharff.

Descriptions and other interesting historical notes are included in excellent compendia published more recently (See *British Historical Medals* by Laurence Brown, and *British Commemorative Medals and Their Values* by Christopher Eimer). Images and descriptions of these medals can be found in the author's website www.historicalartmedals.com, under **England/City of London Medals**.

Acknowledgments and a biographical sketch of the author are shown at the end of Part 1, in the March/April 2016 issue.

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